**2019-2020 Presidents Message**

It is a special honor and a privilege to begin my term as president of the California Association of School Transportation Officials “CASTO.” Our outgoing president, Pam McDonald, deserves an enormous thank you from all of us, for guiding CASTO through challenging times, and bringing us back to a path of prosperity and meaningful strides toward making a difference in pupil transportation safety. Luckily, for all of us, Pam will stay alongside with me to assist in ensuring we work together towards a future where transportation professionals gather exceptional resources, create life-long friendships, and develop skills that guarantee the safe transportation of school pupils throughout the State of California.

During my term, I will work diligently to ensure our association is fiscally responsible, sustainable, and fostering fiscal growth that will propel us to a future of endless possibilities. Use our most current strategies to help our membership grow to numbers never before attained, and with strength in numbers, promote and push forward our legislative agenda for fully funding pupil transportation systems throughout the State of California. Lastly, create an association where all members, no matter the category, feel represented, supported, and given the opportunity to create a network of resources that will aid in supporting safe pupil transportation systems.

As you close out the school year, and you open the doors to the summer program, remember to thank the drivers, mechanics, dispatchers, schedulers, bus aides, office administration, and all stakeholders for another outstanding school year! Without them, there is no success.

As the summer begins, remind the drivers of the dangers of heat related injuries, as a result of inadequate hydration, and over exposure to heat, especially for those buses not equipped with climate control systems. Our students may be in a bus for hours, during the warmest part of the day, so ensure all on the bus are well hydrated, and look for signs of student in distress to provide proper care and a safe environment. Always remind the drivers to double check for students on the bus, prior to leaving the vehicle unattended. Here is a great website to use as a resource to keep everyone safe during the hot summer days<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/heattips.html>.

[Membership](https://castoways.org/Membership-Landing) to this association is a crucial component to its success. Take the time to renew your membership, as you should have received a renewal notice via email. If you are not a member, come and join our association as a member, and if you see me at the Mechanic’s & Maintenance Supervisor’s workshop “July,25-26, 2019”, Manager’s Forum “October 23-25, 2019”, 52ndAnnual State Conference “February, 22-24, 2019”, I will give you the secret to my success in the transportation industry. Although the results may vary if you use my techniques, I promise at least a wealth of smiles, lifelong friendships, and more opportunities to make a difference in someone’s life that you can accommodate!

Lastly, action takes courage, but always remember: “Watch your thoughts, they become your words. Watch your words, they become your actions. Watch your actions, they become your *Destiny!*On behalf of the California Association of School transportation Officials, we wish you a safe and wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

Tony Peregrina

CASTO State President